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DEPARTMENT OF VISITING NURSING AND SOCIAL WELFARE

IN CHARGE OF

EDNA L. FOLEY, R.N.

ITEMS

FLORIDA. The Florida State Board of Health recently held a competitive examination for four more tuberculosis nurses, there being two now in the field, Eula Lee Paschall of Pensacola and Miss Sherman of Tampa. As a result of the examination Irene R. Foote (graduate of the City Hospital, Minneapolis), has been appointed as a tuberculosis nurse and will assume her duties after a summer course at Teachers College. The other three appointments have not yet been announced. This work of trained tuberculosis workers in the rural districts of the state is practically new; and as Florida does not maintain any state, city or county institution, the workers now entering the field have a large problem to face. There is a great opportunity for education among the people in the rural communities. Dr. J. Y. Porter, state health officer, feels that much better results can be obtained by personal visits of the tuberculosis worker to the homes of these patients than through institutional care.

A state public health organization was organized at the last regular meeting of the Florida State Association held in Jacksonville early in March. In the last four years Florida has made wonderful strides along the lines of public health nursing.

JACKSONVILLE. Alice Attride (Flower Hospital, New York) succeeds Miss Foote as head nurse of the Visiting Nurse Department of the Associated Charities. This work since October 1914 has been under the direction of the Public Health Committee of the Woman's Club. Three years ago, a small tuberculosis dispensary was organized in the basement of the old St. Luke's Hospital by the Visiting Nurse Committee. When this hospital moved to its beautiful new buildings there was no provision made for the dispensary. Through the efforts of Dr. R. H. McGinnis, in charge of the dispensary, and Dr. C. E. Terry, city health officer, the basement of the City Engineers' Building was obtained. At that time the dispensary became general. It was supported entirely by voluntary contributions. On May 15, 1915,

the city assumed responsibility and appropriated $500 for the ensuing year and established a drug room and a druggist for five hours each day. The Visiting Nurse Committee of the Woman's Club sends one nurse to act as registrar, and St. Luke's Hospital has added the dispensary work as part of its curriculum, sending two nurses each clinic day. Molly Phelan (Union Hospital, Fall River), will act as Miss Attride's assistant. Josephine Rugg of the Infant Welfare Society, under the City Board of Health, has been very busy this summer and expects in the near future to have an assistant. The splendid regulations of the Board of Health regarding the licensing of mid-wives is greatly lessening the death rate of infants and cases of blindness due to opthalmia neonatorum. Dora McCarthy, (Union Hospital, Fall River, Mass.) has resigned as school nurse. Mrs. Eleanor Roach (De Soto Sanitarium, Jacksonville) has succeded her.

The Public Health Nurses of Chicago did a great deal of excellent relief work on the morning of the fatal Eastland disaster, when a large excursion boat turned over in mid-stream, within sight of thousands of people, carrying hundreds of innocent men, women and children to their deaths. While the enlisted Red Cross Nurses were being called, the School, Infant Welfare, Tuberculosis, and Visiting Nurses did heroic work in the warehouses, hastily cleared out and used as emergency stations, and even in the streets and on the bridge in the immediate vicinity of the disaster. Few victims were resuscitated by anyone's efforts, but every nurse who helped that morning and later, did her best to soften the blow of this cruelly unnecessary tragedy.

Nine graduate nurses have just concluded the summer course at the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy. Three were from Kansas City, Kans., including Rose Sterns, the Visiting Nurse. Three Chicago Visiting Nurses, Josephine Jokaitis, Mary Pritchard, and Mary Strain, also took the course. Eva Anderson, of the Visiting Nurse Staff, Chairman of the Committee on Industrial Nursing of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, took the summer course at Teachers' College, in New York City. Miss Anderson writes back to her sister nurses as follows: "During my first two weeks, I felt as if I knew almost nothing at all about public health nursing, and upon comparing notes with the other nurses, I found that all felt as I did. The course has been simply invaluable, and we are all getting a great deal from it."